IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

~~continuously~~ monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is not detected at said periodic frame interval for a predefined number of blocks.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a predefined synchronization condition is the detection of a predefined cyclic prefix pattern.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

~~continuously~~ monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing

pattern is detected at an unexpected location for a predefined number of blocks.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein a predefined synchronization condition is the detection of a predefined cyclic prefix pattern.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for ~~continuously~~ monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

means for returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is not detected at said periodic frame interval for a predefined number of blocks.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for synchronizing interleavers in an OFDM communication system, wherein a guard period separates any two adjacent symbols, said apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring a guard period of each received OFDM frame for a predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for entering a synchronization state upon detecting said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern;

means for ~~continuously~~ monitoring said guard period of each received OFDM frame for said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern at periodic frame intervals; and

means for returning to said monitoring step if said predefined interleaver synchronizing pattern is detected at an unexpected location for a predefined number of blocks.